

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

Communications & Governmental Affairs

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(916) 445-4775**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****July 19, 2005****Contact:**Janet Huston, Director for Communications and Governmental Affairs
Department of Housing and Community Development
(916) 445-4775**\$55.6 Million Awarded to Rural Communities
Using Community Development Block Grant Funds
Benefiting Hundreds of Residents in
74 Cities and 30 Counties**

SACRAMENTO –“Hundreds of lower income residents in dozens of rural communities throughout the state will realize improved living conditions and public services from the award of \$55,607,103 in federal community development block grant funds,” announced California Department of Housing Community Development Director Lucetta Dunn. “This award will provide home-buyer assistance, rehabilitation of substandard housing, and fund public works projects such as waterline installations, water and sewage treatment system improvements, senior day care facilities, fire stations and medical clinics in our smaller cities and rural communities that often lack access to other types of financial resources,” Dunn explained.

The funds were made available under the non-entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, administered by HCD as a service to smaller communities that do not have resources to administer the program themselves. The more populated cities and counties receive this funding directly from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

- \$50.5 million is awarded through the General Program component of the block grant funds and will be distributed in 74 cities and 30 counties.
- \$4.2 million is awarded to through the Colonia Program to address drainage and street, water and sewer improvements. The awards were made to benefit five Colonia communities in the cities of El Centro, Brawley, Calexico and Imperial and the County of Imperial. A colonia is a community which is within 100 miles of California’s border with Mexico and has no legal status and thus little or no infrastructure.
- \$875,000 was awarded to the counties of Calaveras and Placer for housing rehabilitation benefiting Native Americans belonging to non-federally recognized tribes.

In addition, \$29 million in 2006/2007 CDGB future allocations of funds were reserved for 64 applicants to complete programs and projects. For the 2007/2008 \$25 million was reserved for 57 programs and projects. The reserved funds are subject to federal funding decisions under future budget proposals made by Congress and the President.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) provides leadership, policies and programs to preserve and expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians. The Department also supports increasing the supply of housing, especially affordable housing and works to improve the State's housing conditions and the health and safety of its residents. As the lead Housing Department, HCD is part of the State of California, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

Editor's Note:

For an electronic copy of this release, go to:

http://www.hcd.ca.gov/news/release/07182005_Press_Release.pdf

For a listing of total awards by Area, go to:

http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/cdbg/2005_Final_Funding_List_by_County.pdf

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